# **HEAD OF SCHOOLS** SUGGESTS CHANGES

Supt. E. L. Thurston, in Annual Report, Urges Reforms in **Educational System.** 

### FOR TEACHERS' PENSIONS

indeed, not of revolution, in the educational world, Ernest L. Thurston, superintendent of public schools of the District of Columbia, in his annual report, presented to the board of education this afternoon, recommended many changes which he believes will be valuable to the educational system of Washington. The report is about 40,000 words in length, and embraces a num ber of statistical tables.

Here are a few of the salient points

the superintendent makes: Washington's public schools are being used widely as community and social centers, but should be used even more

The present method of furnishing substitute teachers is weak and needs improvement. Plans for a new method Incorporation of elementary business

courses in new Central and Eastern High schools offers Business High School opportunity for more technical work. Courses in advertising, sales-manship, window dressing and account-ing are advocated.

A teachers' retirement provision is

needed.

More extensive medical and dental supervision are needed. Work in this field has proved its value.

The school system should have a "digestive system" for testing and research work. A small research board probably will be organized in the near future.

tuture.

The report, speaking of the community use of school buildings, shows that in the white schools buildings were used for forty-eight mothers' clubs, parent-teacher associations and similar organizations; nine were used for citizens' associations, and fifty-four were used for other civic and community bodies. In the colored schools thirty-five buildings were used for mothers' clubs, parent-teacher associations and similar organizations; seven for citizens' associations, and four for other bodies. The total membership using the buildings was approximately buildings was approximately of whom 9,286 were white and were colored.

### Community Use Desirable.

the people of the community intend to use their schools in increasing measure—and that is as it should be. With increasing use has come increasing acquaintance. The various associations offer splendid opportunities to school officials to put before the parents and cofficials to put before the parents and the present plan. It may easily save its cost through reduction of reduction of reduction of our cadet organization. In the end it may give the regular school system lessons on this point. Its great value lies, however, water frequently serve in civic capacities in connection with conventions and officials to put before the parents and the present plan. It may easily save its cost through reduction of reduction of reduction of reduction of the regular school system lessons on this point. Its great value lies, however, water frequently serve in civic capacities in connection with conventions and public occasions. They learn how to who do not need or benefit by the aboffer splendid opportunities to school officials to put before the parents and citizenship the needs, the aims and the desires of the educational system, and to secure in return the real reaction of the community. With knowledge and acquaintance must come power of accomplishment and right co-operation."

Saying that while home study for some pupils has certain advantages, it places many pupils under marked disadvantages, Supt. Thurston states:
"More and more am I of the opinion, considering our system as a whole, that the problem of studying and how to study is a school problem, to be met in increasing measure by and in the school. I believe we must begin to weigh seriously the best plan for introduction of definite, supervised study, at least in the higher grades and in the lower high school years. Rightly developed this should mean a reduction of disretardation losses, a lessening of disretardation losses, a lessening of discouragement and a saving in student lives. It may mean more teachers or more teachers temporarily only. It may mean a slight lengthening of school hours, but accompanied by absolute freedom from school demands when the school hours are over. It certainly means some readjustment of our teaching methods."

The "group principal" plan, whereby

ing methods."

The "group principal" plan, whereby one principal has charge of two or more schools, has proved successful, it is indicated. "Although started under difficulties, the teachers conducting the experiment, who conferred with me when the year was over, showed interest in it, recognized its possibilities for greater efficiency and expressed a desire to keep on," says the superintendent.

### Would Extend Bank System

Speaking of the success of the school banks, Supt. Thurston presents a plan for the extension of the banking system in the grades. The main feature of the extension work is that it does not provide a bank for the individual

not provide a bank for the individual school, but merely makes the teacher responsible up to the time that the pupil deposits a dollar to his credit in a local savings bank.

Supt. Thurston dwells at considerable length on the future of Business High School. In this connection he points out the need for a more technical course, including salesmanship and an opportunity for "continuation" work.

an opportunity for "continuation" work.

He says, in part:

"The Business High School should become a great, technical business school, training for special fields of business activity to an extent no combination high school is likely to attempt. The great field of salesmanship offers wonderful opportunities for direct instruction and for co-operation with the business community. There should be developed also extensive courses in advertising and window dressing, in stock keeping and distribution systems and in the work of executive secretaries. There should be developed a practice plan in advanced stenography and office work and in accounting, whereby students would spend part time in actual offices, just as our normal students are required to do in practice teaching. The various offices in the school system and at the municipal building might well co-operate in this work.

"There should be, also, a properly organized continuation school department in the Business High School—when business men are ready for itfor those of their employes who may be spared part time and who need additional training of high school grade. Everywhere fields for broader service to the community suggest themselves. The city study we are now making will make evident many. Surely the friends of Business High School should not fear, but rather should rejoice.

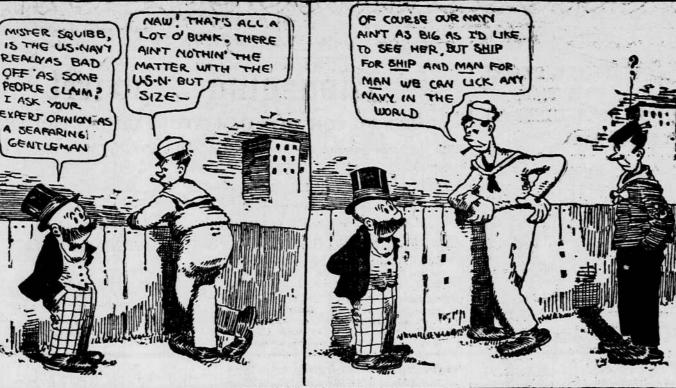
### For Salesmanship Study.

"The matter of teaching salesmanship is worth considering, aside from the Business High School. The elements of retail salesmanship might well be taught at other schools for students who enter these fields. The students who enter these fields. The general principles of salesmanship might find a place as an elective in any high school. Salesmanship is far more than the canacity to sell goods over a counter. The principles involved are of value to any one who has to offer his services or to present a proposition to another. The study of salesmanship is, in no small sense, a study of human nature."

At another point he again touches appon the subject of the need for "continuation" schools. He says:

"At any time the demand arises, I can ready to organize day continuation schools for young business employes

MUTT AND JEFF-Mr. Squibb, U. S. N., Is Evidently Left Handed.





HE BEES PARDON, BUT JAN



-By BUD FISHER

Continuation of the work already tarted to broaden the scope of the activities of the High School Cadets is is ready for and strongly desires the indorsed. The report sets forth, in establishment of real vacation schools.

boy has to learn to do certain things meeting expenses by school pay enterwithout waste or loss of energy. I teaching force once and for all. The believe the teaching carries over into

who left school before the completion of the eighth grade and who now need practical instruction in fundamentals. They would come to school fairly alert and vigorous rather than as at the close of the day, wearled and unfit for mental effort. When the need for some knowledge along certain practical lines is feit by these young people, they should make good use of such classes. This type of work can be established, however, only with the co-operation of employers."

The superintendent urges the extension of the night school term so that it will be from at least October 1 to May 1. He emphasizes particularly the need here for training in citizenship of the foreign-born population. He also advocates the pure extension of vocational courses as fast as need and demand are definitely shown.

Strong support for the night schools from both the board of education and the community in general is urged by Mr. Thurston, who explains: "The night students required to come by law, but of those who fer' within themselves a need for educational development, and who seek help in the best way open to them."

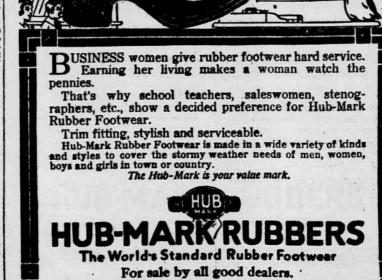
Contribute to the service of the community.

"Yet our work has been very narrowly military—limited largely to close order odler foll and to review and parade, although in the last year officers have had troop leadership work. It should be developed and extended, and is like-ly to be. The work of May McCathran and especially the active help of Capt. E. Z. Steever, famous for his Wyoming plan, have put new life into the organization. I hope to see the physical training side far more fully developed; I hope to see the field camp become a regular feature; I hope to see the officers' school well established. I hope to see the replace of work. With such development should come the granting of full credit as a school study counting toward graduation. Probably this means a faculty military and physical instructor at each school. I am sure that with work thus developed the vast majority of our high school boys would seek to enter and

### Vacation Schools Needed.

Considering work which has been done with the vacation schools, the "Military training is a science. The by public funds, and the burden of "It is evident," says the report, "that other activities of his student and after pupil until than the regular day school under the present plan. It may easily

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Retirement Law Needed,
"The need for a proper teachers' retirement law is vital, and strong effort to secure it should be made at once," urges the superintendent at another point. "It is needed for the sake of the school and for the sake of the teachers. The teacher of long years of service for the public—very much of it at slight financial recompense—who feels the weight of years and of work pressing heavily upon her, ought to be able to step aside with recognition on the part of the public of the value of the work she has done in shaping and in-

fluencing the lives of the children who are to be the men and women, the citishould always be open to interested teachers and visitors, it is explained.

### ALLEGED MURDERER INSANE.

Jury Declares Frank Thomas, Col.

## 'Tis True Good Merchandise Is Hard to Get at Old Prices, Yet at Hecht & Co.'s There's Plenty--- and Everything so Fairly Priced

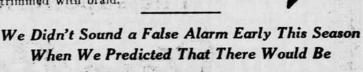
# Autumn Suits at \$23.75

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Materials are Matalam, Hindu Lynx, Scotch Worsteds, Cheviots, Mixtures, Bolivia Cloth and Zibelines. Semi-fitted models, full ripple and belted effects and full loose-fitting styles. The large collars are mighty fashionable. Choice of velvet, beaver plush, self materials, while some are fur trim-

Hecht & Co. Seventh Street Near F

# Paris-Inspired Trimmed Hats Here at \$7.50, \$9.00 and \$12.50

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A Marquise Tricorne with brim of gold lace edged with black velvet, has a black velvet fitted crown garnitured with mole. It is perfectly adorable and the price is only \$7.50.

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throughout. Sizes 8 to 18 years. Boys' \$4.00 School Suits, Special at \$2.95 With one and two pairs of pants, of durable cassimeres, in gray and brown; also plain blue, in pinchback styles. Sizes 8 to 17 years.

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